

Claims

1 1. A network configured to dynamically and intelligently route requests for services
2 provided by service provider servers, comprising:
3 an association of at least one service provider server;
4 an ingress server configured to receive incoming requests for services that are
5 directed to the network;
6 a routing device configured to intelligently route the client service request to an
7 associated service provider server according to predetermined criteria; and
8 a service provider server register configured to maintain current service provider
9 server information.

1 2. A network according to Claim 1 further comprising a qualifying device
2 configured to intelligently qualify a service provider server according to predetermined
3 criteria, wherein the service provider server may become associated with the network.

1 3. A network according to Claim 2 wherein the qualifying device is
2 configured to qualify a service provider server based on service quality criteria.

1 4. A network according to Claim 2 wherein the qualifying device is
2 configured to qualify a service provider server based on service routing criteria, and
3 wherein the routing device includes routing code for enabling a processor to route client
4 requests to an application service provider server by executing the routing code.

1 5. A network according to Claim 2 wherein the qualifying device is
2 configured to qualify a service provider server based on the type of service offered by the
3 service provider server.

1 6. A network according to Claim 1, wherein the network includes a plurality
2 of routing devices and a router table propagator configured to intelligently propagate
3 updates of routing tables that may exist in each of the plurality of routing devices.

3 predetermined criteria, wherein the service provider may become associated with a
4 service routing network.

1 14. An ingress server according to Claim 13 wherein the qualifying device is
2 configured to qualify a service provider server based on service quality criteria.

1 15. An ingress server according to Claim 13 wherein the routing device
2 includes routing code for enabling a processor to route client requests to an application
3 service provider server upon execution, and wherein the qualifying device is configured
4 to qualify a service provider server based on service routing criteria.

1 16. An ingress server according to Claim 13 wherein the qualifying device is
2 configured to qualify a service provider server based on the type of service offered by the
3 service provider server.

1 17. An ingress server according to Claim 12, wherein the network includes a
2 plurality of routing devices and a router table propagator configured to intelligently
3 propagate updates of routing tables that may exist in each of the plurality of routing
4 devices.

1 18. An ingress server according to Claim 12, wherein the service provider
2 server register includes a routing table containing property information pertaining to a
3 service provider server.

1 19. An ingress server according to Claim 12, wherein the service provider
2 server register includes a routing table containing property information pertaining to a
3 service provider server including operation status information and type of service
4 information.

1 20. An ingress server according to Claim 12, wherein the routing table
2 includes a look-up table containing property information pertaining to a service provider
3 server that can be looked up by the routing device.

1 21. An ingress server according to claim 12, further comprising a subscription
2 module configured to route a client request to a service provider server according to
3 subscription criteria.

1 22. A method for routing a client request to a pre-qualified service provider
2 server, wherein such routing is performed by a routing server having a service provider
3 register, comprising:
4 receiving a client request;
5 analyzing the client request to determine the type of service that is requested by
6 the request;
7 checking the service provider register for a pre-qualified service provider server
8 that is capable of performing the requested service; and
9 routing the request to a service provider according to predetermined criteria.

1 23. A method according to Claim 22, further comprising the step of choosing
2 a service provider server from a number of service provider servers that have been pre-
3 qualified by the routing server for particular services.

1 24. A method according to Claim 23, wherein choosing a service provider
2 server from a number of service provider servers is performed by the routing server
3 according to predetermined subscription criteria.

1 25. A method according to Claim 22, further including intelligently
2 propagating router table updates to service routing servers.